



QUOTE OF THE WEEK

*The devil doesn't come dressed in a red cape and pointy horns.
He comes as everything you've ever wished for!*

Series: *Do The Right Thing!*

WHEN IT COMES TO CHOOSING FRIENDS

Proverbs 1:8-19 NLT and 1 Corinthians 15:33 NLT

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INTRODUCTION

- † Proverbs 1:8-19 [NLT](#)
- † 1 Corinthians 15:33 [NLT](#)

About Proverbs

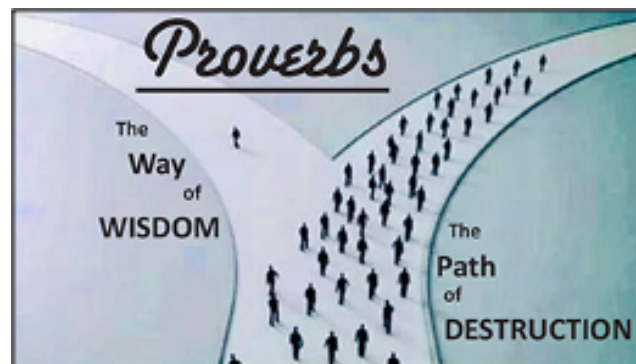
The Prologue:

- Proverbs 1:1-7 challenge the reader to commit himself to the mastery of this book.
- Offers the significant benefit of acquiring the key to attaining capability in life.

By Proverbs, one can learn the principles that determine success or failure in the major arenas of human activity, including business, personal relationships, family life, and community life.

Proverbs 1:2-6 describe the purpose of the book – to teach wisdom to the reader.

- The primary purpose of Proverbs is the instruction of young people and those who have yet to learn wisdom (v. 4), but it is not only for children.
- Those who are already mature and learned (v. 5) also have a great deal to learn from this book, and they should not shun it as unworthy of their time.



FOUR CHARACTERISTICS OF BIBLICAL WISDOM:

First, it is PRACTICAL - Exodus 28:3 NKJV; Psalm 107:27 NKJV

“Wisdom” includes the idea of “common sense” and the ability to cope with daily problems and can also refer to occupational skills

Second, it is INTELLECTUAL - 1 Kings 4:33 NKJV

This is implied in words like “understanding” and “knowledge.”

Solomon’s own fascination with natural history illustrates this Proverbs 1:1-7 challenge.

Third, it is MORAL and involves *self-control*.

This is indicated in words like “right and fair” and “discipline.”

Fourth, Proverbs draws the reader into the MYSTERIES of life.

This is implied in terms like “parables” and “riddles.”

Ancients intrigued at riddles (Judges 14:12–19) but more here than casual entertainment.

Biblical wisdom:

- Seeks to resolve/adjust to ambiguities of life, seeks reality behind the appearances.
- Affirms that the believer can understand mysteries that outsiders cannot.

So, as you read the book of Proverbs throughout this month, understand it will give you practical guidance in every situation, circumstance, and relationship in life.

As such, today we focus on one of those relationships, **Friends**, Proverbs 1:1-7 challenge and how should I choose the people in my life that I would call Friends?

- Jackie Robinson story
- Benjamin Franklin once said: Be slow in choosing a friend, slower in changing them.
- Small boy defined a friend as "Someone who knows all about you and likes you just the same."
- Someone else said; A friend is one who comes in, when all the world has gone out!

When it comes to Choosing Friends, Proverbs shares some practical wisdom that we should adopt.

IN CHOOSING FRIENDS THERE ARE THREE PRINCIPLES THAT WE SHOULD REMEMBER:

1) TRUST _____ - Proverbs 1:8-9 NLT

- Fathers Correct to Change Conduct...
 - Mothers Instruct to Change Motives...
 - Both are intended to Benefit You...
 - **Crown of Grace**
Symbol of endorsement, dignity, and power!
 - **Chain of Honor**
Kings historically wore chains, often made of gold, as a visible symbol of their power, authority, and wealth.
Signifying their high status and rank within society.

These chains were known as "livery collars" or "chains of office" and were often adorned with emblems specific to their reign or lineage, further emphasizing their royal position.
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2) VET _____ - Proverbs 1:10-14 NLT

- Entice = “*yēpāt-tû*”: meaning be gullible; be persuaded.
 - Lot = “*gô-rāl*”: destiny. “...turn your back on them!”
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3) AVOID _____ - Proverbs 1:10-14 NLT; 1 Corinthians 15:33 NLT

- Don't Go Along With Them...
 - Stay Far Away From Their Paths...
 - Proverbs 1:18 is Key!
¹⁸ But these people set an ambush for themselves;
they are trying to get themselves killed.
 - This conduct Robs them of Life!
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CONCLUSION

† Proverbs 18:24 NKJV

† John 15:15 NKJV